

5           METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANEUVERING A WATERCRAFT

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

          A watercraft steer-by-wire control system comprising: an input device; at least one transducer in operable communication with the input device; a rudder control system in operable communication with the input device and configured to control a  
10   rudder of a watercraft; and a bow thruster control system in operable communication with the at least one transducer and configured to control a bow thruster of the watercraft. A method for the maneuvering if a watercraft. The method comprises: applying a force in a first degree of freedom of an input device; measuring the movement of the input device in the first degree of freedom; converting the  
15   movement into a signal proportional to the amount of movement; and transmitting the signal to a bow thruster control system.